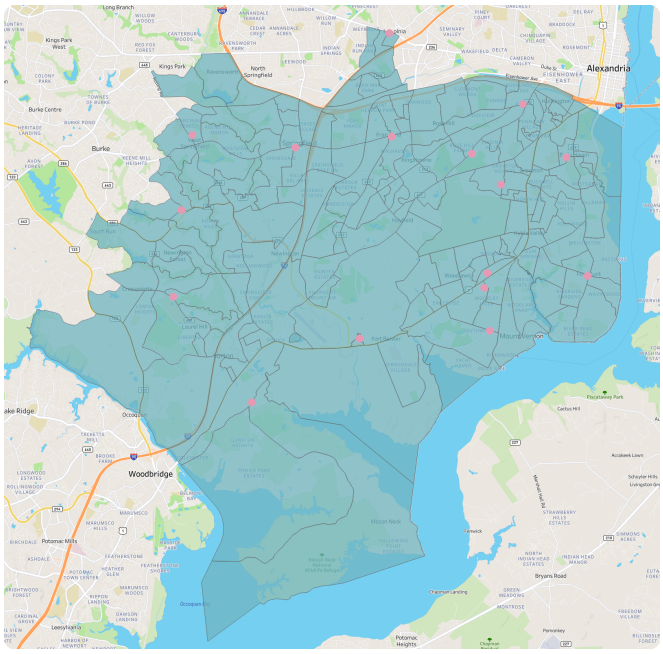
A MICRO-COMMUNITY PORTRAIT

Southern Fairfax

Coastal plain and tidal riverfront with creek valleys (Accotink, Pohick, Dogue), broad terraces along US-1, and extensive base/park lands (Fort Belvoir, Mason Neck).



Micro-community shown with block group boundaries

313,865	16	1,516	19
residents in 2025 329,188 projected by 2030 (+4.9%)	UM churches	average in worship	appointed UM clergy

WE ALREADY KNOW MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS

1,516 average in worship × **150** Dunbar's Number* = **227,400** Number of people within the Micro-community we may already know

That is 72% of everyone who lives here.

It can seem daunting to reach a community of 313,865. Yet as neighbors we are already within meaningful relationship with about 227,400 of our neighbors.

***Dunbar's number (150)** the number of meaningful relationships a person can sustain, per anthropologist Robin Dunbar — a conservative gauge of a community's existing relational reach.

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WHERE WE CALL HOME

We live in the southern reaches of Fairfax County, a diverse, river-oriented belt strung along the Richmond Highway spine and anchored by Fort Belvoir. Our ground runs from the tidal Potomac shoreline and the historic estates around Mount Vernon and Fort Hunt, through the older commercial stretches of Hybla Valley, Groveton, and Woodlawn, out to the planned communities of Kingstowne, Newington, and Lorton and the suburban neighborhoods of Springfield and Franconia. Between it all lie broad parklands — Mason Neck, Pohick Bay, and the creek valleys of Accotink and Dogue. We are many communities sharing one corridor.

THE LIFE WE'VE BUILT

Life here is shaped by the road, the river, and the base. Many of us commute — by I-95, the Franconia-Springfield Metro and VRE, or the slug lines that form each morning — and a great many households have ties to Fort Belvoir and the defense world it anchors. Along Richmond Highway, immigrant-owned groceries and restaurants from Latin American, African, Korean, and South Asian kitchens give the corridor its flavor. On weekends we head to the water — kayaking at Pohick Bay, walking the trails at Mason Neck, or biking the Mount Vernon Trail. We are a working, striving, mixed community.

CHALLENGES WE FACE

For all our county's wealth, prosperity has not reached us evenly. Some of our Richmond Highway neighborhoods sit among the highest-poverty pockets in all of Fairfax, where two of every three families are rent-burdened, even as riverfront homes a few miles away sell for a fortune. Aging garden apartments and rising rents squeeze longtime residents, and the corridor's older strip malls show their years. Route 1 and I-95 stay congested and, too often, dangerous for people on foot. And our creekside neighborhoods along Accotink and Dogue increasingly face flooding as storms grow heavier.

THE FUTURE WE'RE BUILDING

Our future is riding on the transformation of Richmond Highway. The county and the state are rebuilding the corridor around "The One" — a $730 million bus rapid transit line running the length of Route 1 from the Huntington Metro to Fort Belvoir — widening the road, adding bike and walking paths, and concentrating new, mixed-use housing around nine future stations at places like Penn Daw, Groveton, and Hybla Valley. Around the Franconia-Springfield hub, the county has adopted a long-range plan to grow a walkable mini-city. We are betting that better transit can finally spread opportunity along the whole corridor.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS AND HOPE

Even now, neighbors look out for neighbors. On the Route 1 corridor, United Community — rooted here for more than fifty years — runs a choice food pantry and six neighborhood distribution sites staffed by local "neighborhood navigators," while Rising Hope's market feeds more than 1,900 people a week and the Lorton Community Action Center covers rent, utility, and food needs for families around Lorton, Newington, and Fort Belvoir. New mixed-income housing like North Hill is rising on once-vacant land, and a "Faces of One" sculpture trail and fresh murals are giving the highway a prouder face. The comeback is being built together.

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THE CONNECTION

United Methodist Churches

16 congregations – our faithful presence within the micro-community

- **Accotink-Cana UMC**
  9043 Backlick Rd, Fort Belvoir, 22060-1302
  (703) 339-8899
- **Aldersgate UMC**
  1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, 22308-1699
  (703) 765-6555
- **Cameron UMC**
  3130 Franconia Rd, Alexandria, 22310-2315
  (703) 960-9505
- **Cranford UMC**
  9912 Colchester Rd, Lorton, 22079
  (703) 339-5382
- **Franconia UMC**
  6037 Franconia Rd, Alexandria, 22310
  (703) 971-5151
- **Kingstowne Communion UMC**
  6507 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria, 22310-3324
  (571) 207-9437
- **Lincolnia UMC**
  6335 Little River Tpke, Alexandria, 22312-5099
  (703) 354-5176
- **Messiah UMC**
  6215 Rolling Rd, Springfield, 22152-1637
  (703) 569-9862
- **Mount Vernon UMC**
  2006 Belle View Blvd, Alexandria, 22307-1336
  (703) 765-1100
- **Rising Hope Mission UMC**
  8220 Russell Rd, Alexandria, 22309-8218
  (703) 360-1976
- **Silverbrook UMC**
  8616 Silverbrook Rd, Lorton, 22079-3014
  (703) 690-4159
- **Springfield UMC**
  7047 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, 22150-2804
  (703) 451-2375
- **Sydenstricker UMC**
  8508 Hooes Rd, Springfield, 22153-1703
  (703) 451-8223
- **Washington Farm UMC**
  3921 Old Mill Rd, Alexandria, 22309-2812
  (703) 780-4696
- **Wesley UMC**
  8412 Richmond Ave, Alexandria, 22309-2328
  (703) 780-5019
- **Woodlawn-Faith UMC**
  7010 Harrison Ln, Alexandria, 22306-1431
  (703) 380-3495

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